

# **Minutes of the East Greenwich School Committee**

**Tuesday, March 1, 2016**

**Archie R. Cole Middle School Library**

**100 Cedar Avenue**

**East Greenwich, RI 02818**

**6:05 p.m. Executive Session, Mr. Plain made a motion to go into executive session for discussion and/or action regarding those items of business exempt from open meetings under Rhode Island General Laws §42-46-4 and §42-46-5 (a) (2) Teacher Negotiations. Mr. Fain seconded the motion, which passed 6-0.**

**Those in attendance were Ms. Carolyn Mark, Chair; Mrs. Mary Ellen Winters, Vice-Chair; Mr. David Osborne; Mr. Matt Plain; Mr. Michael Fain, and Dr. Yan Sun. Dr. Victor Mercurio, Superintendent; Mrs. Gail Wilcox, Director of Administration; and Mr. Bradley Wilson, Director of Student Services were also present.**

## **7:12 p.m. Regular Meeting**

### **I. Call to Order**

**Ms. Mark called the meeting to order at 7:12 p.m.**

### **II. Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag**

**The meeting commenced with the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.**

### **III. Election of School Committee Vice-Chair**

**Ms. Mark opened nominations for Vice-Chair. Mr. Osborne nominated Mrs. Winters based on her years of service and in honor of her steadfast advocacy of students and educators. There were no further nominations. All raised their right hand in favor of Mrs. Winters as Vice-Chair. Nomination carried 6-0.**

#### **IV. Recognitions**

- a. R.I.A.A.A. Male Coach of the Year-John George, EGHS**
- b. R.I.A.A.A. School of the Year-East Greenwich High School**

**Mr. George was recognized and congratulated for being named Rhode Island Athletic Administrators' Association "Male Coach of the Year." Mr. Cobain was also recognized and congratulated for EGHS being named R.I.A.A.A. "School of the Year." Dr. Mercurio expressed his thanks and gratitude to Mr. George and Mr. Cobain.**

#### **V. Public Comments**

**Mrs. Riley, 25 Signal Ridge, asked the Committee to consider using video surveillance systems on the busses. She explained how this would eliminate hearsay (he said/she said).**

#### **VI. Approval of Minutes**

- a. Regular and executive for February 23, 2016**

**On a motion by Mrs. Winters, which was seconded by Mr. Plain, the Committee voted 6-0 to approve the regular and executive minutes.**

#### **VII. Superintendent's Report**

**Dr. Mercurio reported on the EGHS Samsung Solve for Tomorrow Contest that is taking place at the EGHS under Mr. Rath. The EGHS is a national finalist to win a share of \$2 million in Samsung**

technology. Voting started today and will end on April 1, 2016. The Superintendent's Field Memo and the district list serv will provide details on voting. If the EGHS wins, two students will need to accompany Mr. Rath to New York City. Due to the quick turnaround, Dr. Mercurio noted the two students would need to go on this overnight trip. Details will also be posted on the field memo for AfterProm EG. March is art recognition month and as such, several recognitions will take place at the next meeting. Details regarding district text messages will be posted on this week's field memo. The town is in the process of constructing a running trail through the McHale property, which abuts the back of the EGHS athletic complex. A map of the field will be posted on the field memo. There may be heavy trucks going back/forth while the track is being constructed. It is anticipated the track will be ready in the fall. The district plans to host cross country meets.

#### **VIII. School Committee Concerns**

Mr. Osborne congratulated the girls' basketball team and the boys' basketball team on their recent wins. The girls' will play at CCRI on March 2nd at 7:30 p.m. and the boys' will play at RIC on March 3rd at 6:00 p.m. Ms. Mark echoed Mrs. Riley's comment regarding video surveillance on busses. She asked Dr. Mercurio to report on best practices at a future meeting.

#### **IX. Action Items**

##### **a. Appointments**

- 1. Head Coach Baseball EGHS-Robert Downey**
- 2. Assistant Coach Baseball EGHS-Bill O'Connell**

3. Volunteer Coach Baseball EGHS-Jared Hopkins
4. Head Coach Boys' Lacrosse EGHS-Brian Trapani
5. Volunteer Coach Boys' Lacrosse EGHS-Chris Callahan
6. Volunteer Coach Boys' Lacrosse EGHS-Bruce Roberts
7. Volunteer Coach Boys' Lacrosse EGHS-Brian Hennessey
8. Head Coach Boys' Outdoor Track EGHS-Peter Dion
9. Assistant Coach Boys' Outdoor Track EGHS-Nick Ross
  - 10 Head Coach Softball-EGHS Rob Petrucci
  11. Assistant Coach Softball EGHS-Kerri Fuller
  12. Volunteer Coach Softball EGHS-Doug Mainerio
  13. Head Coach Golf EGHS Marc Brocato
  14. Head Coach Boys' Tennis EGHS-Marissa Salvatore
  15. Head Coach Girls' Lacrosse EGHS-Karen Lemont
  16. Assistant Coach Girls' Lacrosse EGHS-Kathleen Swanson
  17. Head Coach Girls' Outdoor Track EGHS-Erin Newman
  18. Assistant Coach Girls' Outdoor Track EGHS-Kyle Mushaweh
19. Head Coach Boys' Volleyball EGHS-Justin Amaral
20. Assistant Coach Boys' Volleyball EGHS-Kyle Medeiros
21. Head Coach Baseball Cole-Ed Botelho

On a motion by Mrs. Winters, which was seconded by Dr. Sun, the Committee voted 6-0 to approve appointments #1-21. Mr. Plain noted that Mr. Roberts (Vol. Coach Lacrosse) graduated from East Greenwich in the 1960s.

22. Appointment-Custodian Part-Time EGHS-Glenn Tella

On a motion by Mrs. Winters, which was seconded by Mr. Fain, the

**Committee voted 6-0 to approve the appointment.**

**b. Parental Leave-Jennifer Armstrong, Chorus Teacher, Cole/EGHS**

**On a motion by Mrs. Winters, which was seconded by Mr. Fain, the Committee voted 6-0 to approve the leave (retro 2/29/16).**

**c. Extension of Extended Parental Leave-Jillian Meyer-Teacher, Eldredge**

**On a motion by Mrs. Winters, which was seconded by Mr. Fain, the Committee voted 6-0 to approve the extension of the extended parental leave.**

**d. Retirement-Eileen Murphy, Secretary to the Principal, EGHS**

**On a motion by Mrs. Winters, which was seconded by Mr. Osborne, the Committee voted 6-0 to accept the retirement. Mrs. Murphy will be recognized at a June meeting.**

**e. Field Trip-Galapagos Islands-EGHS-4/15-4/23/16**

**This trip was originally approved at the meeting on October 7, 2014. Since then, the trip was changed and includes a Friday departure for students. Mr. Plain voiced concerns related to charging for a field trip and concerns for families who can't afford the trip. He also had questions related to the trip/curriculum. Mrs. Pontarelli, EGHS Foreign Language Dept. Chair, provided background details on the trip and the connection to the curriculum. On a motion by Mrs. Winters, which was seconded by Dr. Sun, the Committee voted 5-1 to approve the trip. Mr. Plain voted no.**

**X. Public Hearing on the FY2017 Budget**

**Dr. Mercurio presented the FY2017 budget via a PowerPoint presentation. The presentation and the individual detail is available**

on the district website. The FY2017 budget proposal is \$37,821,043, which is a 2.67% over FY2016 and a 2.64% increase from local revenue. Revenue from state aid decreased \$118,540 from FY2016. This is due to the increase in median home values and increases in the median income.

Since last week's proposal, kindergarten enrollment was reviewed again and it was determined the district will reduce the proposed "ask" from two teachers to one (for both Frenchtown and Meadowbrook) and also the "ask" will be reduced from two paraprofessionals to one (for both Frenchtown and Meadowbrook). Other staffing increases are part-time (FTE) increases due to the sharing of itinerants among buildings.

The Committee questioned the risk in reducing the "ask" of kindergarten teachers for all-day kindergarten. Dr. Mercurio noted that is an unknown, but the district is paring back, not reducing teachers. If numbers remain consistent, the district will have latitude.

The numbers will be watched cautiously. If numbers rise dramatically, there may be a need to come back to the Committee for additional staffing. The furniture, fixtures, and equipment line for all-day kindergarten was not pared down, but may be an option.

There were questions regarding the \$232,793 increase in "purchased services." Mrs. Wilcox explained these services, which include resource support (speech), bus monitors, mentoring, tutoring, professional development, and contracted nursing services.

The technology budget was increased for web-based instruction (\$27,770) and virtual classrooms (\$7,500). This was an adjustment

from another line. The Committee asked if hyperlinks could be connected to budget lines.

Dr. Mercurio explained that “discretionary funds” are small areas to look for decreases. He recommended that the Committee revisit and defer the school start time change since lots of dollars are tied up in this local initiative. He said the budget was crafted to include the change in start time. Dr. Mercurio said the only way to decrease “six figures” is through staffing cuts. Statutory items are not options (all-day kindergarten). He noted that no other districts have attempted two major initiatives simultaneously (all-day kindergarten and changing the school start time). He strongly asked that the Committee revisit the voluntary initiative of changing the school start time. Dr. Mercurio asked if any further info/clarification is needed to assist in the adoption of the budget on March 15th. No members asked for further information.

#### **XI. Policy: First Read of Revised or New Policy**

##### **a. #1140: Selection of Ad Hoc Committees and School Committee Advisory Committees from the Community (revised policy)**

New language was added to this policy for ad hoc committees. Mr. Plain suggested stronger language in “Duties and Obligation of Service” giving the Superintendent the authority to replace a member who misses two or more consecutive meetings. The policy will go for a second read/possible adoption at the March 15th meeting.

##### **b. #9305: Naming Buildings and Other School Department Sites (new policy)**

Mr. Plain suggested changing “criteria” to “factors” (5th sentence).

**This policy will go for a second read/possible adoption at the March 15th meeting.**

## **XII. Discussion**

### **a. School Calendar 2016-2017**

**Dr. Mercurio discussed the two drafts of calendars for next year. Both calendars will be reviewed with the administration council and bargaining leadership. It was noted that Rosh Hashanah starts on October 3rd. Dr. Mercurio will get clarification whether year round employees have December 23rd and January 2nd off due to the December 24th and January 1st holidays. Various scenarios were discussed such as changing the professional development days, moving a vacation to March, etc. Dr. Mercurio discussed the impact of changing holidays/vacations in regards to statewide transportation. The Committee asked for a tally of districts that are eliminating/changing the February and April break.**

## **XIII. Advisory/Subcommittee Update**

### **a. Health and Wellness Committee and Mental Health Subcommittee**

**The Health and Wellness Committee is in the process of developing a guidance document for the Health and Wellness policy. The Committee has been working on a toolkit to support staff on indoor recess days. A student-led initiative at the EGHS for a “heart healthy accreditation” is in the works. March is “National Nutrition Month.” As such, a community forum to discuss the school food service program will take place on March 29th at 7:00 p.m. in the Cole library. Members/representatives of the Health and Wellness Committee, Aramark, R.I. Health School Coalition, and Farm Fresh**



**R.I. will take part in the conversation. The Mental Health Subcommittee is focusing on plans for May, which is “Mental Health Awareness Month.” The Committee is also working on data collection, educating on screening for drugs/alcohol, etc.**

**b. Policy Committee**

**The Committee addressed policies #1140 and #9305 at the last meeting. The group plans to meet again this month to discuss the public comment policy, videotaping policy, and continued discussion regarding video surveillance on the busses.**

**XIV. Adjournment**

**On a motion by Mr. Osborne, which was seconded by Mr. Fain, the Committee voted**

**6-0 to adjourn at 9:47 p.m.**

**CHRISTINE DIMEGLIO**

**SECRETARY**